## Politics DA

### Uniqueness

#### Won’t pass – several votes shy in the House – best expert agrees

Avila 7/9/13 (Jim, “Path to 218: Why one political scientist is skeptical the House will get the votes to pass immigration reform”, <http://news.yahoo.com/blogs/power-players-abc-news/path-218-why-one-political-scientist-skeptical-house-112127290.html>, CMR)

What are the chances that the House of Representatives will pass comprehensive immigration reform?¶ Political scientist Tom Wong has been taking a scientific approach to answering that very question, tallying votes and crunching numbers to forecast the potential outcomes, and tells Power Players he’s “skeptical” the House will follow the Senate’s lead and pass a comprehensive bill.¶ Based on his own vote tally, Wong says there are 203 solid ‘yes’ votes in the House and an additional 11 votes that are likely but not guaranteed.¶ “If we take that 203 number, add 11 more we're at 214, and we need 218 for a majority, so this ends up being a game of inches,” says the assistant professor at the University of California, San Diego. “It could go either way in the House.”¶ The 11 votes that Wong has designated as maybe votes are for representatives who are facing tight reelection races in 2014.¶ Wong says more than 60 percent of congressional districts are not racially diverse, with white populations making up more than 80 percent of those districts.¶ “If we just make these broad assumptions that immigration reform is going to benefit communities of color and we have a lot of representatives who don't have large communities of color in their district, then a ‘no’ vote may actually reflect the preferences of one's constituency,” Wong says.¶ Wong has a track record of success in his approach to vote counting, which takes into account complex profiles for each member of Congress. As far back as March, his models predicted that the Senate would get 67 ‘yes’ votes — and the final tally of the Senate’s vote came out to 68.¶ Wong says “there’s a lot of pessimism right now” that the Republican-run House may decide not to consider the Senate’s bill at all and instead choose to address immigration reform in smaller pieces.

**Won’t net increase immigration**

**Benson 2** (Lenni B., Professor of Law – New York Law School, “Breaking Bureaucratic Borders: A Necessary Step Toward Immigration Law Reform”, Administrative Law Review, Winter, 54 ADMIN. L. REV. 203, Lexis)

**Many of the process failures arise from the failure of Congress** and the agencies **to adequately contend with the** internal and **external forces that shape the agency culture**. n313 Although many of these factors operate in other areas of administrative law, several are particularly strong in immigration law. The failure to plan for and counteract these forces, has directly contributed to the erosion of the essential process values. n313 See JAMES Q. WILSON, BUREAUCRACY: WHAT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES DO AND WHY THEY DO IT 91 (1989) ("Every organization has a culture, that is, a persistent, patterned way of thinking about the central tasks of and human relationship within an organization."). Wilson goes on to note that many organizations have multiple cultures and the relationship of the agency culture(s) to the agency mission may dramatically impact the effectiveness of the organization. See id. at 91-92. Here I am using culture in a broad manner to encompass both the internal and external forces that shape the organizations. a. Congressional Mandates and Dictated Priorities **Congress must bear a large part of the responsibility for the crisis in immigration adjudications**. n314 **Congress mandated** express and implied **priorities in the statutes** n315 **or demanded prioritization of specific programs with**  [\*283]  **the threat of reduced funding or of imposing new statutory mandates**. n316 For example, **some statutory limits force an allocation of resources to a particular visa category without adequate consideration of how the allocation might disadvantage or paralyze a separate function**. Two of the most obvious examples are the naturalization and H-1B petitions. When Congress pressures INS to reform and expedite its naturalization backlogs, the Service Centers move personnel away from the adjustment of status processing and the processing of the employment-based immigrant petitions. n317 The limitation of the total number of H-1B visas, necessitated that the INS put auditing procedures in place to be sure they did not approve more H-1B visas than the statute allowed. n318 Employers worrying about the cap filed large numbers of petitions in the winter and early spring to avoid being shut out of the category altogether. n319 Moving adjudicators to meet the thirty-day deadline meant other visa petitions had to sit waiting for adjudication. n314 Politics presents a treacherous double-edged sword for the INS' efficient and appropriate facilitation of immigration. The highly political debate persists about how vigorously the INS should control illegal immigration. When the INS engages in activities such as surprise work-site inspection, criticism immediately flows from immigrant groups and its conduct is subject to congressional scrutiny and investigation. Yet, on the other hand, if lawmakers perceive the INS as remiss in their duties, they immediately capitalize on the agency's unpopularity by encouraging resentment against it as congressional elections approach. A similar situation plagues other agencies, such as the IRS. See GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE PROJECT, supra note 12; see also Laurent, supra note 12, 13-18 (outlining Government Performance Project in detail). n315 See INA � 214(c)(2)(C), [8 U.S.C. � 1184](http://www.lexis.com/research/buttonTFLink?_m=845bc4b6c417ccdc4e87d691d3f93c13&_xfercite=%3ccite%20cc%3d%22USA%22%3e%3c%21%5bCDATA%5b54%20ADMIN.%20L.%20REV.%20203%5d%5d%3e%3c%2fcite%3e&_butType=4&_butStat=0&_butNum=160&_butInline=1&_butinfo=8%20USC%201184&_fmtstr=FULL&docnum=1&_startdoc=1&wchp=dGLzVtb-zSkAA&_md5=be1c6ffa8f018c46af8a96c32dc7dfe1)(c)(2)(C) (1994 & Supp. V 1999) (mandating thirty day processing for H-1B and L-1 petitions). n316 See Dep'ts of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2001: Hearing of the Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary Subcomm. of the Senate Appropriations Comm., 106th Cong. 183-213 (2000) (transcribing detailed questioning of how appropriated money to INS will be spent). n317 See supra text accompanying notes 183-85 and 215-16 (discussing current backlog problems). n318 See supra note 58 and accompanying text (noting numerical limitations imposed by statute). n319 Interview with Frances Berger, Attorney at Law, Law Office of Frances Berger, New York, N.Y. (July 8, 2000). **Although Congress did not intend the agency to suspend other operations, the management of the agency responded to congressional and community pressure**. However, the failure to adjudicate one type of petition means that pressure will mount in other categories or unnecessary work will be created. For example, if the immigrant petition cannot be processed in time, the employee will need a renewal of non-immigrant status. The extension petition could have been eliminated altogether if the INS had been able to process the I-140 in a timely fashion. The failure to adjudicate the adjustment of status applications meant that fewer people became permanent residents and a push to rush through cases created a bulge in the workflow. **The sudden increase in workload resulted in delayed processing**. **Delayed processing means the initial grants of work or travel authorization expire**. To obtain extensions of these, the individual must make a formal request and the INS has more work for its adjudication officers. n320 n320 See INS Nonimmigrant Classes, 8 C.F.R. � 214.2 (2000) (detailing general requirements for admission, extension, and maintenance of status). **One bulge can build into a tidal wave five years later**. In 1986, Congress authorized a legalization program resulting in more than three million people  [\*284]  becoming permanent residents over a five-year period. n321 Because permanent residents cannot apply for naturalization until they have completed five years of resident status, n322 the INS began to experience an upswing in the number of naturalization applications. n323 If the INS allows backlogs to grow, and then, through special initiatives, completes the adjustment of status applications for record numbers of people, the bulge will reappear a few years later in naturalization applications and in relative petitions for the employees' family members who have not yet immigrated to the United States.

#### House won’t budge – despite Senate pressure

Canham 7/8/13 (Matt, “The easy part of immigration reform is over”, <http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/immig-house/immig-house>, CMR)

How do you get a fractured House Republican caucus to back comprehensive immigration reform? Pressure. Lots and lots of pressure.¶ At least that's been the working theory of reform supporters, who want to package a path to citizenship with increased border security and a streamlined visa program. That group includes conservative heavyweights from Fox News' Bill O'Reilly and Karl Rove's well-funded super PAC to Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah.¶ But so far, House leaders appear far from impressed by the Senate's immigration bill, which received 68 votes, including the support of all Democrats and 14 Republicans.¶ "I couldn't careless," said Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, who sits on two House committees Judiciary and Homeland Security that have debated immigration proposals. 'I don't know why that would affect my thinking on the issue.'¶ His reaction is hardly unique in the House, where Republicans outnumber Democrats, 234-201. The chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, Rep. Bob Goodlatte, held a town-hall meeting in his Lynchburg, Va., district on Tuesday, when he knocked down the perception that the House GOP will eventually buckle and support a proposal they view skeptically.¶ "We shouldn't feel pressured by the Senate, the president or anyone else,' the Virginia Republican said, according to ABC News. 'Getting it right is more important than passing a bill."¶ President Barack Obama received 71 percent of the Hispanic vote in his 2012 reelection, and some Republicans worry that the party will have a tough time reclaiming a decent share of that bloc if they come off as opposing immigration reform.¶ But what is good politics on the national level doesn't necessarily translate to winning elections back home, particularly safe House seats where an incumbent could be vulnerable to a challenge from within his or her own party.¶ "It is the definition of a difficult vote," said Kirk Jowers, director of the Hinckley Institute of Politics at the University of Utah. 'The House members are thinking, 'It is probably in my own self-interest if I vote no, but probably against my party's and my country's self-interest if I vote no."¶ With a Republican House and a Democratic Senate, Jowers sees no way to pass immigration reform that doesn't include a path to citizenship along with more enforcement measures.¶ Hatch has made the same pitch, saying the time is now to solve this problem, and there is only one practical way to do it the Senate bill.¶ But Goodlatte, Chaffetz and many House Republicans want to tackle the issue in chunks and have begun to do just that, focusing first on bills involving border security and revamping the temporary-worker program for highly skilled immigrants.¶ It's unclear if they'll debate a proposal offering legal status to the 11 million people in the U.S. illegally.¶ House Speaker John Boehner has repeatedly said he won't bring up a bill unless a majority of Republicans support it. That could be a tough threshold to reach.

### **Link**

**Even small changes cause a flood of applications --- swamping USCIS processing capacity**

**Murthy 9** (Law Firm, “What if CIR Passes? Can USCIS Handle the Increased Workload?”, NewsBrief, 10-30, http://www.murthy.com/news/n\_cirwkl.html)

Any type of legalization program will face significant opposition, particularly during an economic downturn. However, **given the numbers of individuals possibly eligible, even under a less expansive program, the USCIS must prepare for a potential onslaught of applications if any type of CIR passes and becomes the law**. As many MurthyDotCom and MurthyBulletin readers know from personal experience, the USCIS has historically suffered from backlogs and capacity issues. Were such a measure to pass, **absent substantial changes, a flood of new applications could pose a significant challenge to the processing capacity of the USCIS**. *USCIS Preparing to Expand Rapidly, Should Need Arise* A Reuters blog quoted USCIS spokesman, Bill Wright, as saying, “The agency has been preparing for the advent of any kind of a comprehensive immigration reform, and if that means a surge of applications and operations, we have been working toward that.” USCIS Director, Alejandro Mayorkas, has stated that the goal of the USCIS is to be ready to expand rapidly to handle the increase in applications that would result from CIR. In the past, opponents have used lack of capacity and preparation as an argument against CIR and expansion of eligibility for immigration benefits. *Will CIR Result in Increased or Reduced Backlogs for Others?* Legal immigrants and their employers have concerns about being disadvantaged by any CIR legislation that would provide benefits to undocumented workers. However, true CIR is not limited to these provisions, and would be expected to contain provisions regarding various aspects of legal immigration. CIR certainly will be hotly debated and any proposed legislation will be modified throughout the debate process. As part of the preparations of the USCIS, and in order not to harm those who have already initiated cases under existing law, **the USCIS needs to continue to work on backlogs**. While **significant progress has been made in many areas, and case processing times have been improved greatly**, there are still case backlogs that need to be addressed.

#### CIR has Bipartisan support

asmdc July, 1 , 2013 (asmdc, Information network, asmdc, “Bipartisan Support for Comprehensive Immigration Reform” , <http://www.asmdc.org/members/a30/press/bipartisan-support-for-comprehensive-immigration-reform>, EL)

SACRAMENTO)— Today, Assembly member Luis Alejo (D-Salinas) announced that Assembly Joint Resolution 3, which urges President Barack Obama and Congress to support comprehensive immigration reform, passed the California State Senate with bipartisan support, 28-1.¶ “Comprehensive immigration reform is the most important civil rights issue of our time. With the passage of AJR 3 in the State Senate, California sends a message of urgency to Washington D.C. on comprehensive immigration reform,” states Alejo.¶ Just last Thursday, the U.S. Senate voted 68-32 in support of the bipartisan "Gang of Eight" comprehensive immigration reform bill. Recent polls show broad support nationwide with 68% in support of the bipartisan Senate bill. In California, the number is much higher, at 90%.¶ Senator Anthony Cannella (R-Ceres), presented the resolution on the Senate Floor, “We were born as a nation of immigrants and have relied on the ingenuity and hard work of those who have come to call the United States home over the past 200 years. Reforming our broken immigration system will show the rest of the world that this has not changed.”¶ “Today, we applaud the California Senate for voting in a bipartisan way to support AJR 3. Last week, the U.S. Senate made a giant step for Americans with a historic vote for immigration reform. AJR 3 sends a strong message to the U.S. House of Representatives to deliver immigration reform principles," states Director of Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA), Angelica Salas.¶ The resolution will now return to the Assembly Floor for concurrence in Senate amendments. It will then be printed and copies will be distributed to the President and the Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in Congress, to the Governor of California, and to the author.

#### Immigration reform doesn’t turn the aff – progress on areas like the plan are possible without CIR

Graybeal 2011  
Michael Graybeal is the program coordinator for the Americas Program. He joined CSIS in May 2010 after receiving his M.A. in Latin American studies from Georgetown University. “Mexico's Economic Policy and Migration

Dealing with the Causes” MAY 12, 2011 Center for Strategic and International Studies http://csis.org/files/publication/110509\_Graybeal\_MexicoEconPolicy\_Web.pdf

The United States must reexamine the assumption that immigration reform is the precondition for making progress on other fronts. Doris Meissner, senior fellow at the Migration Policy Institute, argued that immigration reform may or may not happen, but most likely not in the short term. Instead, while continuing to push for immigration reform, advocates must think in new terms, focusing on the interconnectedness of the United States with Mexico and Central America. By increasing the focus on this dynamic, policymakers will increasingly recognize that immigration is a regional issue and best addressed through the lens of long-term competitiveness. By doing so, more effort could be made to address building up the region’s human capital infrastructure.

#### Plan would slow illegal immigration flows into the US

Graybeal 2011  
 Michael Graybeal is the program coordinator for the Americas Program. He joined CSIS in May 2010 after receiving his M.A. in Latin American studies from Georgetown University. “Mexico’s Economic Prospects Key to Passing Immigration Reform” MAY 18, 2011 America’s Program Blog http://csis.org/blog/mexicos-economic-prospects-key-passing-immigration-reform

There is an often neglected facet of this issue, which is the economy of Mexico—the largest source of legal and illegal migrants to the United States. As immigration expert Philip Martin, chairman of the Comparative Immigration and Integration Program at the University of California Davis, stated at a recent CSIS conference on the Mexican economy, that there needs to be “a light at the end of the tunnel.” In other words, if Mexico is able to expand employment for its citizens and stem the flow of migrants it may boost chances to enact reforms in the United States. While Mexico’s economy has rebounded strongly from the global financial crisis, it has yet to enact the reforms necessary to actually increase the job pool. There are signs that this may be changing. Mexico’s Federal Competition Commission (Cofeco) recently announced a $1 billion fine against telecommunications giant Telcel for alleged monopolistic practices – lack of competition in Mexico has long hindered growth prospects. Telcel is just one company in one industry, however. Until Mexico is able to improve competitive practices across its commercial sector to spur job growth, it is doubtful U.S. lawmakers will feel compelled to enact immigration reform.

#### Won’t solve the economy

Scruggs 2/23 (Mike, “Immigration Myths: propping up foolish immigration policies”, <http://www.thetribunepapers.com/2013/02/23/immigration-myths-propping-up-foolish-immigration-policies/>, CMR)

Employment is the great magnet for illegal immigration. **Many CIS studies and the work of Harvard labor economist** George **Borjas confirm that**, although there are many notable exceptions, taken as a whole the last several decades of **immigrants are not really adding to the economy**. **They** add to the profits of those who employ cheap imported labor, but they **are displacing American workers**, **and their numbers are creating an excess labor supply driving American wages down.** **This is particularly acute for Americans with a high school education or less** and becoming a problem at higher skill levels. That is the reason American workers are not benefiting from top-line economic growth. As Robert Rector of the Heritage Foundation has pointed out, **the excessive number of unskilled and poorly educated immigrants**—about 80 percent of the total—**has created a considerable fiscal drag** on federal, state, and local governments, and taxpayers. The Federation of Americans for Immigration Reform (FAIR) estimates this to be about $100 billion per year considering ONLY education, healthcare, and law enforcement. There are other significant but less easily quantified burdens impacting society as well.

### **Trade offs**

#### Tensions between Columbia and Venezuela have never been higher; US intervention could cause Columbian relations to collapse

Venezuela’s President Nicolas Maduro on Monday attacked Colombia’s government, dismissing a suggestion by his Colombian counterpart that a dispute between the neighboring countries was the result of a “misunderstanding.”¶ Colombian media reports that Maduro is standing by his claim that Colombia is home to a plan to destabilize Venezuela as he rejected Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos’ suggestion that “there must be misunderstandings.”¶ “Converting Bogota into a conspiracy center to plan the assassination of [speaker of Venezuela's National Assembly, Diosdado Cabello,] my poisoning and the death of our soldiers was not a misunderstanding,” said Maduro.¶ MORE: Claims Colombia wants to destabilize Venezuela ‘ridiculous’: Santos¶ Venezuela’s president added that he is interested in having a good relationship with Colombia, but only if it is transparent and without deception.¶ “The Colombian government is an oligarchy which has dominated the country for over 180 years. Are we interested in good relations with them?, Yes, but based on clear rules, which do not trip us up,” confirmed the Venezuelan.¶ Maduro on Sunday criticized Colombia’s application to join NATO, which was rejected on Monday, and said that the possibility of Colombia united with the international organization was part of an “attack against the Bolivarian revolution.”¶ The latest attack on Colombia by president Maduro stems from rising tensions between the two nations after a Venezuelan opposition member visited Colombia and was permitted to address congress

### Impact

#### Infrastructure improvement is a key component of border security – it’s the vital internal link to stopping narco-trafficking into the US

McCaul 2012   
Statement of Chairman Michael T. McCaul (R-TX) Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Management Field Hearing “Using Technology to Facilitate Trade and Enhance Security at Our Ports of Entry” May 1, 2012 Remarks as Prepared <http://homeland.house.gov/sites/homeland.house.gov/files/05-01-12%20McCaul%20Open.pdf>

The free flow of trade and commerce through our ports of entry is vital to our nation’s economy. Yet today, those ports of entry have also become a route for Mexican cartels to funnel their drugs into the United States. Our federal agents have a never ending job of preventing this onslaught. Unfortunately the search for these illegal drugs has slowed down the flow of commerce, and threatens to further weaken our already fragile economy. How much is at stake? Last year alone, $83.4 billion of commerce came through the Laredo border crossing. The city has lived up to its distinction as “the Gateway City”, boasting the busiest commercial truck crossing in the United States. However, America’s free flow of trade is threatened, because our ports of entry remain a battleground in our fight to protect the homeland. The same ports of entry that serve as a pipeline for economic growth are inundated by illegal drug shipments. According to the Department of Justice, more than 90% of all illicit narcotics come into the United States through official ports of entry hidden among cargo and travelers. Last year in Laredo, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers seized 21 and a half kilos of Cocaine and more than 33 kilos of Methamphetamines. And where there are drugs flowing north, you can be sure to find guns and money flowing south. Make no mistake; the cartels running drugs across the southwest border are highly sophisticated criminal organizations with one goal – to make as much money as possible. They will use any means necessary to ensure their poison reaches the interior of our nation. The men and women of CBP are the last line of defense in our fight to stop the drugs from entering the United States. These officers have a difficult task: separate illicit cargo and travelers from the legitimate ones with minimal interruption to the flow of legal trade. After September 11th, traffic across some ports of entry came to a standstill due to more detailed questioning of travelers and inspection of cargo. This resulted in long truck delays and caused plant closures, threatening companies which rely on such shipments. In the immediate aftermath of a terrorist attack, this may have been a reasonable response, but consistent delays at the border costs time and money, driving up business costs. We do not want to experience this again. Balancing trade and security requires the smart application of technology, personnel, and infrastructure. We must adequately secure the border in order to facilitate trade. Over the last few years the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has increased the number of CBP officers. While these men and women may be needed to address specific gaps, it is clear that we cannot secure the ports of entry only with boots on the ground. A key to security is the maintenance and expansion of infrastructure. Our nation’s ports of entry need modernization. We cannot increase capacity if there are not enough truck lanes, passenger lanes, and facilities to conduct secondary screening. Especially in these difficult budget times it is important that funds be targeted to maximize both trade and security.